

Inventory and Monitoring Concerns and Considerations to share with the Alaska Superintendents

- The I&M program and activities have required an unprecedented amount of coordination between WASO, the AKRD, AKSO, between parks and within parks. For example, I&M networks have crossed personnel service clusters and at first this caused some confusion.
- We recognize that the I&M program has been added to already full work plans with few extra dedicated staff to accomplish this high priority program. We have tried to provide ample AKSO support to the I&M networks and will have a review meeting to help examine opportunities to improve operations next year.
- In order for the I&M program to be successful it must be integrated into each park's natural resource programs and into park operations. Park staff, not only resource staff, need to understand the program and have some opportunity to provide input into the I&M program.
- The information obtained by the I&M program is intended to improve our ability to make science based decisions. Although the Vital Sign Monitoring program is not intended to monitor visitor use or address all management issues, there probably are opportunities to answer some of these issues while monitoring vital signs.
- The funding for the inventory program is not adequate to conduct the biological inventories needed to need to attain the goals of the program. The shortfalls will have to be filled in creative ways such as partnerships with Universities, CESU's, BRD and NPS soft money funding sources. The Vital Signs monitoring funds will also fall short of the ideal amount of money, and will need to be complimented with other funds and partnerships.
- We will work to incorporate a strong education and outreach component into the I&M program. The public must know what we are doing and will support our work if they have some stake and ownership in the projects.